

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-13 NIC-01 DRC-01 /126 W

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R 192137Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8588

INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L PANAMA 5091

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAGR, CI, PN

SUBJECT: CHILEAN DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS

REF: STATE 186005; PANAMA 5002

SUMMARY: CHILEAN AMBASSADOR HAS RESIGNED AND BEEN
REPLACED BY CAREER OFFICER AS CHARGE D'AFFAIRES.
END SUMMARY.

1. IN RESPONSE TO REFTTEL, CHILEAN AMBASSADOR TO
PANAMA JORGE MARIO QUINZIO, WHO DESCRIBES HIMSELF AS
A PERSONAL FRIEND OF ALLENDE, ANNOUNCED SEPTEMBER 13
THAT HE IS NO LONGER EXERCISING HIS FUNCTIONS AS
AMBASSADOR. HE IS REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN OFFERED A
TEACHING POST AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PANAMA (HE HAS BEEN
TEACHING AT UNIVERSITY FOR OVER A YEAR) AND IS EXPECTED TO
STAY ON HERE, ALTHOUGH WHETHER HE WILL FORMALLY SEEK ASYLUM
IS NOT KNOWN. ACCORDING TO THIS MORNING'S PRESS, COUNSELOR OF EMBASSY
CESAR CORREA BARROS, A CAREER CHILEAN FOREIGN SERVICE
OFFICER, HAS BEEN NAMED AS CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I.
IN WORKING OUT DETAILS FOR RETURN TO CHILE OF NAVY
COMMANDER RAUL GANGA SALAZAR, CHILEAN MILITARY ATTACHE,
COL. MONTALVA, TOLD MILGP OFFICER THAT "CIVILIANS WERE
OUT" AT THE EMBASSY AND ONLY A CAREER OFFICER REMAINED.

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2. AMBASSADOR QUINZIO, WHO HAS MADE NO BONES ABOUT HIS PRO-ALLENDE BACKGROUND, ANNOUNCED HIS RESIGNATION IN A SEPTEMBER 13 LETTER TO INDEPENDENT DAILY LA ESTRELLA. WHILE HIS LETTER WAS OTHERWISE LIMITED TO EXPRESSION OF THANKS TO PRESS, GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF PANAMA FOR THEIR HOSPITALITY, THE AMBASSADOR DID SPEAK OUT AGAINST THE COUP DURING A "SOLIDARITY" DEMONSTRATION BY STUDENTS AT THE CHILEAN EMBASSY ON THE SAME DAY, SEPT. 13. AS REPORTED IN THE PRESS, QUINZIO ASSERTED THAT ALLENDE HAD BEEN "ASSASSINATED" BUT THAT HIS "CONQUESTS" WERE IRREVERSIBLE. EDITORIALS HAVE GENERALLY PRAISED QUINZIO, CALLING HIM ON ONE OCCASION CHILE'S BEST AMBASSADOR TO PANAMA.

3. COMMENT: NEW CHILEAN CHARGE CESAR CORREA BARROS CALLED ON ADCM TO PAY RESPECTS ON SEPTEMBER 4. IN WIDE-RANGING CONVERSATION, WHICH COVERED YEARS ADCM WAS STATIONED IN CHILE, CORREA BARROS INDICATED MODERATELY CRITICAL ATTITUDE TOWARD ADMINISTRATION OF LATE PRESIDENT ALLENDE.
SAYRE

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